# POISONOUS PLANTS

M18069

2387-


22102315375



Poetic Pioneers: Poets etc

Plato (Life)

6/6

# POISONOUS, NOXIOUS, AND SUSPECTED PLANTS,

OF

# OUR FIELDS AND WOODS.

By ANNE PRATT.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION,
APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

London:

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE;

SOLD AT THE DEPOSITORIES:

77, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS;
4, ROYAL EXCHANGE; 48, PICCADILLY:
AND BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

78825 463

M18069

WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY

| Coll. | welMOmec |
| --- | --- |
| Call No. | WD 500 |
| | 1857 |
| | P91p2 |
| | |



DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.—(*Átropa Belladónna.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Solanaceæ. The Nightshade Tribe.

This plant is not common; it grows in some hedges and on waste places. It is as tall as a shrub, but has not a woody stem. Its leaves are very large and generally in pairs, one of each pair being smaller than the other. The juicy glossy fruits ripen in September. They are about as large as cherries, and have a sweetish flavour. Three or four of these berries will cause a sleep which is succeeded by death, and many children have died from eating them. Every part of the plant is poisonous, and it should never be used as a remedy in any way, but by medical advice.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



MONKSHOOD.—(*Aconítum Napéllus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ. The Ranunculus Tribe.

This is the most virulent of all our native plants; all parts being poisonous. Even the scent of its flowers is unwholesome, and the dust on its anthers will, if it touches the eyes, cause pain and inflammation, while any portion of the Monkshood, if handled when the skin is torn, causes pain in the limbs and fainting. Illness has arisen from eating but a small piece of the leaf; and several persons have died by mistaking the root for horseradish. The plant is about four feet high. It grows by a few streams in this country.

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



HEMLOCK WATER DROPWORT.—(*Œnánthe crocáta.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

This is a tall plant of watery places, but is not common. It has a thick hollow stem, from two to five feet high, with leaves formed of many leaflets. In July it bears its clusters of yellowish-white little flowers. The root consists of large knobs, and both these and the stem contain a yellow juice, which is poisonous, as yellow juice in plants often is. Even a spoonful of this juice will cause death, and several persons have died through eating by mistake a very small piece of the root. The bruised root is sometimes applied to whitlows, but this practice is dangerous.



Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge



COWBANE; OR, WATER-HEMLOCK.—(*Cicúta virósa.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

The furrowed, branched, sometimes reddish stem of this plant is hollow, and about four feet high. The leaves are of bright green, and have the scent of celery leaves. The flowers are white, and the root is composed of hollow knobs, and is full of a yellow juice, which burns and blisters the skin. The roots have been eaten by children in mistake for parsneps, and intense suffering and death have followed. The whole plant is a fatal poison to man and animals, and especially so to cows. It grows by streams and ditches, but is not frequent, though plentiful in some marshy spots.

---



Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields. Price 1d. or 6d. per dozen.



FOOL'S PARSLEY.—(*Æthúsa Cynápium.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

This is one of our commonest weeds, flowering during July and August, in fields, gardens, and hedges. It has a stem one or two feet high, branched and marked with fine lines; and its numerous leaves are of very dark green. It may be known from similar plants, by three little slender leaflets hanging from each of the small clusters of flowers forming the general cluster. Though of much darker tint than the garden parsley, it has been mistaken for it, and most distressing illness and death have ensued very quickly after eating it. Children have also died from eating its roots instead of turnips.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



COMMON HEMLOCK.—(*Conium maculatum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

The Hemlock is a tall plant, sometimes six feet high, and its hollow shining stem is marked with purplish red spots. Its beautiful leaves are finely divided, and on long stalks, and the clusters of flowers are very numerous, expanding in June and July. Its odour is very disagreeable, especially when bruised, and the root has a scent exactly like that of the parsnep. It is a fatal poison; the leaves and seeds being more powerful than the roots. The plant grows in hedges, on waste grounds, and near walls. In many places it is abundant, but in some districts is not common.

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



THORN APPLE.—(*Datúra Stramónium.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Solanaceæ. The Nightshade Tribe.

We do not often find the Thorn-apple wild, but it sometimes grows on waste places near houses. It is a large plant, with a thick shining stem, two or three feet high, broad leaves, and large white flowers. It is very poisonous, persons having died from eating the leaves by mistake, while more than one little child has either died or suffered very severely from swallowing its seeds. Even the odour of the flower is unwholesome. The plant is sometimes smoked in a pipe, to relieve asthma, but convulsions have been caused by this practice. The flowers open in the summer months.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*





GREEN HELLEBORE.—(*Helléborus víridis.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ. The Ranunculus Tribe.

This Hellebore grows occasionally in woods and thickets, but is not a common wild flower. It has an erect, round stem, about a foot and a half high, with forked branches, and dark green leaves. The green flowers grow on the upper part of the stem, expanding in April and May. They have a large number of stamens around the centre. The upper leaves are without stalks, but the lower ones have long stalks, and the odour of every part of the plant is extremely unpleasant. It is highly poisonous, and if either leaves or flowers are eaten, they will cause death.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



FETID HELLEBORE, OR BEAR'S FOOT.—(*Helléborus foétidus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* RANUNCULACEÆ. THE RANUNCULUS TRIBE.

THIS is a much larger and handsomer plant than the Green Hellebore, and is common in gardens, and also, in some parts of the kingdom, in woods and hedges. The large dark green leaves which grow on the lower part of the plant, contrast with the yellowish green flowers edged with purple, which, during February and March, grow on the top of the stem. It is one or two feet in height. The plant has a disagreeable flavour and odour, and contains in every part a fatal poison. No preparation of Hellebore should ever be taken by country people, nor should the plant be cultivated in shrubberies, where children may wander alone.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



COMMON HENBANE.—(*Hyoscíyamus níger.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Solanaceæ. The Nightshade Tribe.

The Henbane is a large, dull-looking plant, from three to six feet high. It is not unfrequent in churchyards, or on waste heaps near dwellings, especially on chalky soils. Both leaves and stem are clothed with long, fine, fetid hairs, and the large cream-coloured flowers expand from June to August. Every part of the Henbane has a faint unpleasant scent, which causes drowsiness, and it is a narcotic poison, causing death; but it is not so powerful as many of our poisonous plants. A valuable medicine is procured from it: but children should not play with the Henbane pods, as illness has arisen from swallowing a few of the seeds.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



MEADOW SAFFRON.—(*Cólchicum autumnále.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Melanthaceæ. The Meadow Saffron Tribe.

The large purple blossoms of this plant, may be seen in September and October, on grassy lands in Essex, Gloucestershire, and other counties. It bears no leaves at that season, but in the following April four bright green leaves emerge from the bulbous root, and two or three seed-vessels arise on stalks. By June or July these are as large as pigeons' eggs, and full of seeds. The plant is powerfully poisonous, but both seeds and bulbs are used medicinally. No portion of this Meadow Saffron should be eaten, death having followed in a few hours from eating either the leaves or blossoms. Sheep and cattle generally refuse it, but lambs have died from cropping it.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



MEZEREON.—(*Dáphne Mezéreum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* THYMELACEÆ. THE DAPHNE TRIBE.

THIS small shrub is rarely more than three feet high, and its delicate green leaves appear in tufts, at the ends of the branches, in February, at which time the purplish lilac flowers grow around the stems. Their scent is very sweet, and by the end of summer they are succeeded by scarlet berries. This Mezereon grows in woods, chiefly in the south of England, but is more frequent in gardens. The berries are a most corrosive poison. A very small number will, if eaten, cause death, and being sweet, their acrimony is not at first perceived. The leaves are poisonous in a less degree, and the bark and root most powerfully so.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields Price.*—1s. 4d. per dozen.



SPURGE LAUREL.—(*Dáphne Lauréola.*)

*Nat. Ord.* THYMELACEÆ. THE DAPHNE TRIBE.

THE dark evergreen leaves of this plant grow on the upper part of the stem, and are as thick as those of the Laurel. The stout woody stem is often tinged with purple, and is two or three feet in height. The greenish-white flowers expand from February till May, about five of them clustering together. The berries, which are oval and black, are fatally poisonous. The whole plant has acrid and caustic juices, and it is in some countries laid on the skin to raise blisters. Though not common, it is found in woods in various parts of England. No part of it should be used either as an external, or internal remedy.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



CUCKOO-PINT.—(*Árum maculátum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Araceæ. The Arum Tribe.

This plant, known to all country children by its name of Lords and Ladies, has large glossy leaves, often spotted with black. These lie by hundreds on many hedgebanks in April; and in May, the purple or yellowish-green column is reared in the midst of its green, leaf-like sheath. The scarlet berries ripen in autumn. Every part of this plant is poisonous. Even a small piece of the leaf, when eaten by children, has occasioned convulsions; and a larger portion of this, or a small number of the berries, would, if swallowed, cause death. The root is poisonous, but the poison may be removed from it, and a wholesome flour is then made from it.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



PETTY SPURGE.—(*Euphórbia Péplus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* EUPHORBIACEÆ. THE SPURGE TRIBE.

THIS is one of our commonest weeds, as is also a larger species, called the Sun Spurge. Both are to be found in most corn-fields, and under many hedges. The thick milky juice flowing in the stem and branches of these, as well as the other Spurge plants, acts like caustic on the skin, and is used to cure warts. Great suffering, and even death, has been caused by swallowing a small quantity of this milk; and the lip, if only touched with it, remains swollen for days after. The Petty Spurge is six or eight inches high. A boy who ate some of it was unable to swallow, and afterwards became insensible, and died.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



DOG'S MERCURY.—(*Mercuriális perénnis.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Euphorbiaceæ. The Spurge Tribe.

Large patches of this plant grow under hedges and bushes, bearing their green flowers in April and May; the young shoots and leaves appearing in the earliest months of the year, while their roots form a network under the soil. The square stem is unbranched, and about a foot high. The whole plant is poisonous, and death has resulted from eating it, even when boiled. It is everywhere a common weed. Another kind, called the Annual Mercury, is a plant of more yellowish green, but much resembling this, except that its stem is branched. It is far less poisonous than the perennial kind.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



GREATER CELANDINE.—(*Chelidónium május.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Papaveraceæ. The Poppy Tribe.

This plant is not unfrequent about houses, or on walls, as well as on hedgebanks near towns and villages. Its thick round stem is branched, and about two feet high, enlarged at the joints, smooth and leafy; and the flowers which expand from May till the end of summer, are followed by pods full of oval black shining seeds. This is a highly corrosive plant, a thick yellow poisonous juice of a most unpleasant scent existing in the stem, branches, and root. This juice is used as a caustic to cure warts; but it is also sometimes applied to the eyes, and the latter practice is highly dangerous.

---

**PLANTS** proved to be **FATALLY POISONOUS** to **MAN.**

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



CELERY-LEAVED CROWFOOT.—(*Ranúnculus scelerátus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ. The Ranunculus Tribe.

This plant is very poisonous, and even if a small piece of it is swallowed, it causes pain. It is nearly allied to the buttercups of the meadows, which are all noxious plants. Severe illness has been caused by chewing the stems and leaves of the bulbous-rooted buttercup; and also from tasting its root, which is emetic. The juice of this celery-leaved species is stated to have occasioned death when taken in some quantity. The plant grows chiefly on moist soils. Its small yellow flowers expand in June and July, and its branched stem is two or three feet high. Most of the plants of the Ranunculus tribe have juices which will blister the skin, but they lose their caustic property when dried.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



BLACK OR GARDEN NIGHTSHADE.—(*Solánum nígrum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Solanaceæ. The Nightshade Tribe.

This is a common garden weed, and it is found also on walls, heaps of rubbish, or sea-beaches. Its stem is about a foot high, and the white flowers expand in June, July, and August. The whole plant has a faint, disagreeable odour. Every part is poisonous, and the berries, though not disagreeable in flavour, are so in a very high degree. They are round, black, and full of seeds; and children who have been tempted by their sweetish juice to eat them, have died from doing so, while the leaves, boiled and eaten by mistake, have caused severe pain and inflammation.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



YEW-TREE.—(*Táxus baccáta.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Coniferæ. The Pine Tribe.

The dark green Yew-tree, so often to be seen in churchyards, grows wild also in several parts of the kingdom, attaining a very great age. The leaves contain poison, and, in cases in which they have been unwisely given to children as a medicine, have produced very serious consequences. The beautiful coral-like juicy berries which grow on this tree should not be eaten by little children; for although their scarlet pulp is not unwholesome, yet the bitter seed contained by them is noxious, and might, if swallowed in large numbers, produce very painful illness.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*





DWARF ELDER.—(*Sambúcus Ebulus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Caprifoliaceæ. The Honeysuckle Tribe.

This plant has an angular furrowed green stem, about three feet high. Its scent, which resembles that of the elder-tree, is very unpleasant if the plant is bruised; and in autumn it bears round black berries, which have emetic properties. Country people have long been accustomed to make drinks of the bark and root of the plant, but they are extremely dangerous, and death has been caused by an infusion of the roots, either of this plant or of the common elder-tree. Wine and jelly made of elderberries are quite wholesome, but medicines, made either of bark, leaves, or flowers of the tree, have a poisonous action on the constitution.

---

PLANTS proved to be FATALLY POISONOUS to MAN.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



BLACK BRYONY.—(*Támus communis.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Dioscoraceæ. The Yam Tribe.

Those who ramble into the woods in May, see the wreaths of glossy leaves which this climbing plant twines about the trees and bushes. In Autumn, these leaves become of purplish colour, and the green flowers are followed by the large berries, which look like clusters of green grapes, but which finally become scarlet. The root is sometimes used in villages as a domestic medicine; but it is a highly dangerous one, as it is an irritant poison. Blisters are also raised on the skin by the application of the bruised root; but these blisters have sometimes proved difficult to heal. The berries are violently emetic, and a few would cause death.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



WHITE POPPY.—(*Papáver somníferum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Papaveraceæ. The Poppy Tribe.

This Poppy blossoms in July on sandy spots near the sea, and also in cornfields. It is a large plant, with a stem two or three feet high, and large leaves clasping around it. Many persons die in consequence of taking the opium which is made of the thick white milk which oozes from this plant; and many a little infant is poisoned by too large a dose of the syrup of poppies, made by boiling its large round seed-vessels. Opium and the laudanum which is a preparation from it, are used by physicians to cause sleep; but neither should be taken without medical advice. The seed-vessels are used as fomentations to allay pain. Our other wild poppies have narcotic properties, but in a less degree.

---

PLANTS from which POISONOUS SUBSTANCES are derived.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Paternoster Row.*



FOX-GLOVE.—(*Digitális purpúrea.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Scrophulariaceæ. The Figwort Tribe.

This is the handsomest of all our wild poisonous plants, and it is not unfrequent in woods and hedges, and on rocks. Its stem, often three feet high, bears in June and July a long cluster of bells, but neither the flowers nor the wrinkled leaves have any scent. The dried leaves are used in medical preparations, and a drug of great power, called digitalis, is made from them. This should be used only by those skilled in medicine; as an overdose, or a long succession of smaller doses, may cause death. The plant is in some villages called Throatwort, and boiling water poured on its leaves is used for colds; but alarming illness has followed the use of this infusion.

---



STRONG-SCENTED LETTUCE.—(*Lactúca virósa.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Compositæ. Compound Flowers.

This plant produces a substance resembling opium, but much milder in its nature, the Lettuce opium being poisonous only when taken in large quantity, and affording in skilful hands a valuable medicine. The plant is not one from which much danger is to be feared, as the leaves are intensely bitter and acrid, so that no one would eat a sufficient quantity to prove injurious. It is noxious, but no instance of death is known to have been caused either by it, or by the opium it yields. It is six feet high, with rigid stems. The leaves about the root are very large, with prickly keels. The flowers open only during sunshine.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



COMMON WOOD SORREL.—(*Óxalis acetosélla.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Oxalidaceæ. The Wood Sorrel Tribe.

This Sorrel can hardly be called poisonous, because if eaten in moderation, it is perfectly wholesome, and its acid leaves beaten up with sugar afford a refreshing conserve. Yet children should know that a poisonous salt is derived from this plant, and used to remove ink stains; and this salt has caused death; while children have suffered severe illness, and even died, from eating very large quantities of Sorrel leaves. All the plants called Sorrel, and one of which, the Meadow Sorrel, is abundant everywhere, possess this salt in small quantity in their leaves and stems. The lilac blossoms of the Wood Sorrel expand in May.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



HERB PARIS.—(*Páris quadrifólia.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Trilliaceæ. The Herb Paris Tribe.

This singular plant is not very common, although abundant in some woods. Its round stem is about a foot high, and it has four, or more rarely three or five leaves. Its green flower opens in May and June, and a single round purplish black berry succeeds it. Every part of the plant is poisonous, but the poison is most active in the leaves and berry. These produce delirium and convulsions, and if taken in any but the smallest quantity, would cause death. The Herb Paris has not the sickly odour so frequent in poisonous plants, but plants with green flowers are often unwholesome.



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



COMMON DAFFODIL.—(*Narcíssus Pseúdo-narcíssus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Amaryllidaceæ. The Amaryllis Tribe.

The powerful and unpleasant odour of this Spring flower will often cause head-ache, and the blossoms act as an emetic, and have caused illness in children who ate portions of them. The leaves also, when boiled by mistake for leeks in soup, have caused suffering, and the root is more powerfully noxious than either leaf or flower. The Daffodil is common in gardens, where, from its season of flowering, it is called Lent Lily; and it grows also in woods, thickets, and orchards in several parts of England. Its yellow cup opens in March. When wild it is always a single blossom.



Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Brighton



WILD HYACINTH OR BLUE-BELL.—(*Hyacínthus non-scríptus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* LILIACEÆ. THE LILY TRIBE.

DURING May the woods, thickets, and hedgebanks are filled with this flower, bending on its thick juicy stalk, about a foot high. The plant is full of a slimy juice, which is probably unwholesome, as the fresh bulb is very acrid and poisonous, and has caused sickness in some who have eaten it when cooked by mistake. The bulbous roots of the garden Hyacinths are also poisonous ; and a flower of the same tribe, the Crown Imperial, has bulbs which are acrid, and emetic. The roots of the two wild species of Squill plants, much like the Hyacinth, but much more rare, are unwholesome in a less degree.

---

## NOXIOUS PLANTS.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Depository, Gower Street, and 77, Great Queen Street.*



RED-BERRIED BRYONY.—(*Bryónia dioica.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Cucurbitaceæ. The Gourd Tribe.

This graceful plant winds among the boughs of the wood or hedge by means of its flexible stem and curling tendrils. Its large leaves have prickly hairs on both sides, and the flowers open in May. In Autumn the clusters of berries are very conspicuous. They are round, red, and smooth, but not glossy. The root of this plant is very large, and it is sometimes sliced and taken in wine or beer as a domestic medicine. But this is a very unsafe practice, as both root and berries are noxious and irritant; though the latter are poisonous in a less degree than some other wild berries. The root when bruised has a most unpleasant scent, and leaves a burning on the tongue if tasted.



PASQUE FLOWER.—(*Anémone pulsatílla.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ. The Ranunculus Tribe.

This pretty Anemone grows on pasture-lands; it flowers in April and May, a single blossom rising up on a short stalk. It is not a common plant like the Wood Anemone, which at the same season is flowering in the woods. All the Anemones are more or less poisonous, and cattle have been injured, and even killed, by cropping the Pasque-flower in the pasture; while alarming symptoms have followed the imprudent use of the Wood Anemone as a village medicine. Even the external application of the bruised root of the Pasque-flower has caused pain and inflammation in the limb to which it was applied.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen*



WOODY NIGHTSHADE, OR BITTER-SWEET.—(*Solánum dulcamára.*)

*Nat. Ord.* SOLANACEÆ. THE NIGHTSHADE TRIBE.

THIS plant is common in hedges, especially such as border streams or pools, and its woody branched and twining stem is sometimes five or six feet high. The foliage is of a dull green, the flowers expand in August and September, and the clusters of glistening scarlet berries hang on the boughs during autumn and the early months of winter. These berries are bitter and noxious, but they are not highly poisonous, and if quickly removed from the stomach would not prove injurious. Berries should never be eaten by those who are unacquainted with them, as, besides those described on these sheets, the berries of the Holly and the Ivy are emetic, those of the Iris or Flag very acrid and dangerous; and the black berry of the Solomon's Seal is reputed poisonous.

---

PLANTS more or less NOXIOUS.

*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



BANEBERRY.—(*Actæa spicáta.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ. The Ranunculus Tribe.

This plant grows so rarely in our native woods that comparatively few cases of poisoning may be expected to occur through eating it. But its berries are highly poisonous. They are oval, about the size of currants, and of purplish black colour. The creeping roots of the plant contain the noxious principle in a less degree. The Baneberry is often called Herb-Christopher in the limestone districts in the North of England where it grows. It has a triangular stem, about a foot and a half high, slightly branched and leafy, and its odour is most unpleasant. Its white flowers open in May and June.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



SPINDLE-TREE.—(*Euónymus Europæus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Celastraceæ. The Spindle-tree Tribe.

This low tree grows wild in many woods and hedges, and is planted in shrubberies for the beauty of its berries. Its leaves are of dark green hue, and it bears in May clusters of small greenish flowers. The autumnal berries are composed of four or five rich rose-coloured lobes, in which lie the large seeds, covered with an orange-coloured skin. The flower and leaves have a very disagreeable scent, and both leaves and bark an acrid flavour. The berries are actively emetic, and in other ways very injurious; and no part of the plant can be regarded as wholesome, though the wood is very useful.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



YELLOW-HORNED POPPY.—(*Glaúcium lúteum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Papavèraceæ. The Poppy Tribe.

There is no case on record of persons having been poisoned by this plant; but all the Poppy tribe contain noxious juices, and this plant is powerfully acrid, and has, when bruised, a disgusting odour. If a leaf be bitten, it leaves a sense of irritation on the tongue; and the root, which is orange-coloured, and like a little carrot, has a still greater acridity. This poppy is one of the handsomest flowers of our sea-shores, where it is often very abundant. Its large golden blossoms, which open in July and August, are very fragile; and its curved pod of seeds, like a long horn, is sometimes a foot in length. The stem is two or three feet high, and the leaves are sea-green and very rough.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*



ACRID LOBELIA.—(*Lobélia úrens.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Lobeliaceæ. The Lobelia Tribe.

Very few, save botanists, are acquainted with this plant. It grows only about Axminster in Devonshire, on heathy grounds, beneath the shadow of bushes. It is very acrid and noxious, and its milky juice acts like caustic on the skin. Several of the foreign species of Lobelia have a larger proportion of this fluid, and of so powerful a character that it not only blisters the skin on coming in contact with it, but even produces serious inflammation. Excessive vomiting follows the internal use of several of the Lobelias; and the modern practice of taking preparations of these plants, as domestic medicines, is highly dangerous. This Lobelia flowers in August and September, and both leaves and root are bitter and acrid.



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*



BUCKTHORN.—(*Rhámnus cathárticus.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Rhamnaceæ. The Buckthorn Tribe.

This rigid shrub, bearing in May its yellowish-green flowers, is common in hedges and among bushes in many parts of England. Its upright stem is branched, each branch ending in a thorn. The leaves are ribbed, smooth, and of bright green. The round bluish-black berries are sometimes used as a village medicine; but their action is very violent, causing also great pain, sickness, and intolerable thirst. They should never be used medicinally, and they are so nauseous that children would not be likely to eat a sufficient number to injure them. The inner bark also is emetic. The other wild species, the Alder Buckthorn, has no thorns. Its properties are similar to those of the Common Buckthorn.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



YELLOW VETCHLING.—(*Láthyrus Áphaca.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Leguminosæ. The Pea Tribe.

This singular plant is found chiefly in sandy bushy fields in the south and east of England, its stems either trailing on the ground, or climbing by their tendrils. The flowers expand from June to August. The seeds are noxious, and if eaten, will cause head-ache. This is a Leguminous plant, so called from the Legume, or pod, which contains the seeds; and our wild plants of this kind are almost always wholesome. But one common Leguminous garden tree, the Laburnum, has seeds which are poisonous, so also is the inner bark of the tree, and very serious illness has arisen from eating either bark or seeds.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d per dozen.*



DARNEL.—(*Lólium temuléntum.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Gramineæ. The Grass Tribe.

We have many grasses in fields and meadows, and all are well known to be wholesome, except this. From earliest times the Darnel has been reputed poisonous, but the ancient opinions were doubtless exaggerated, and many good botanists doubt if it be noxious at all. It is, however, considered by some to be injurious when ground by mistake with other grain, if the bread be eaten while yet hot. Sickness and staggering, as if from intoxication, are said to result from this use of it; but it must be considered a suspected, rather than a decidedly poisonous plant. It grows in barley or wheat-fields in the month of July.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1s. 4d. *per dozen.*





NARROW-LEAVED WATER PARSNEP.—(*Sium angustifolium.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

This plant, very common in our ditches and rivulets, flowers in June and July, and is sometimes carelessly gathered with water-cresses. It is known, when eaten in large quantity, to have caused serious illness, but it is not highly poisonous. Several of our deadly poisons, as the Hemlock, Cowbane, and others, belong also to the Umbelliferous tribe. Their stems are mostly hollow, with leaf-stalks sheathing them, and their peculiar manner of flowering is shown by this and others of the plates. The greatest danger is incurred by eating any umbelliferous plant growing in or near water, or in moist shady woods. No plant of this tribe should even be tasted.



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—Price* 1*s.* 4*d. per dozen.*





WOOD SANICLE.—(*Sanícula Europœa.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

This is a common woodland flower, with an erect and slender stem about a foot high, slightly branched and often tinted with red. Its little tufts of flowers are whitish, sometimes tinged more or less with chocolate colour, and they expand in May. Though this is not a deadly poison, yet it is an unwholesome plant, and is especially acrid and noxious when growing on a moist soil. Drinks made of this herb were formerly so valued for wounds, that an old proverb said, "He that hath Sanicle needeth no surgeon." Village medicines are still made from it, but these potions are very unsafe.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields.- Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*





WILD CELERY.—(*Ápium gravéolens.*)

*Nat. Ord.* Umbelliferæ. The Umbelliferous Tribe.

The wild celery is not uncommon in ditches and marshes, and, like all the plants of its tribe growing in such places, is unwholesome. Our garden celery is but a cultivated form of this wild species, but the acrid and noxious properties are entirely removed by blanching, which is effected by earthing the lower part of the plant, and so keeping it in darkness. The wild celery has a furrowed stem, about two feet in height, and bright-green shining leaves. Its odour is much like that of the garden celery, and the leaves around the root are on long stalks.

---



*Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: Depository, Great Queen St. Lincoln's Inn Fields. -Price 1s. 4d. per dozen.*



WELLCOME
LIBRARY
INSTITUTE



